

# Monroe Lake

November and  
December 2015

## Website

stateparks.in.gov/2954.htm



## E-Newsletter

bit.ly/monroeprograms



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**Monroe Lake Office (Paynetown SRA):** 4850 S. State Road 446, Bloomington, IN 47401, 812-837-9546  
**Monroe Lake Naturalist (Paynetown SRA: Activity Center):** Jill Vance, 812-837-9967, jvance@dnr.IN.gov

**Campground Reservations (Paynetown SRA):** 866-622-6746, CAMP.IN.gov

**Lake Monroe General Store and Boat Rental (at Paynetown SRA):** 812-837-9909

**Four Winds Resort & Marina, Boat Rental (at Fairfax SRA):** 812-824-2628, fourwindsresort.com

**Lake Monroe Marina and Boat Rental (at Cutright SRA):** 812-837-9394, lakemonroemarina.com

**Laura Thorne Training, kayaks - SUPs - wind surfing - lessons (at Fairfax SRA):** 812-797-4747



**Paynetown Fossil Dig** Love searching for fossils? Check out our Fossil Dig at the **back end of the Overflow Parking Area** at Paynetown SRA! Although rock and fossil collecting is prohibited at Monroe Lake, any rocks and fossils found *in this activity site* can be taken home with you! Available year-round.

## Allens Creek Fossil Beds Hike

- **Sunday, November 1 at 1:30 p.m.** Sign up at <http://bit.ly/fossilbedsnov1> by Oct. 28
- **Wednesday, November 4 at 1:30 p.m.** Sign up at <http://bit.ly/fossilbedsnov4> by Nov. 1

These hikes are free, but each is limited to 20 people. Recommended for ages 16 and up. Hikes meet at Allens Creek SRA, off of S.R. 446 (directions emailed before hike to registered participants). *Round-trip hike distance is about 4 miles over moderate terrain and takes roughly 3 hours.*

The limestone shoreline around the point at Allen's Creek is so dense with fossils that it's hard to find "plain" rock! The fossil beds are filled with crinoids and corals, interspersed with geodes – remnants of the shallow sea that once covered Indiana. On our hike to and from the fossil beds, we'll explore the broader geological story told by the rock layers exposed in the Monroe Lake area.



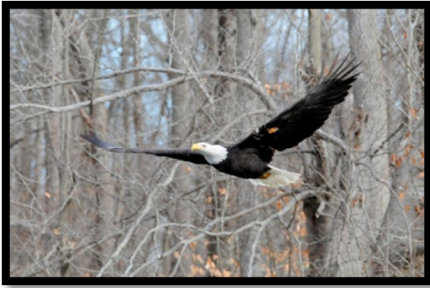
## Geology Driving Tour: Wed., November 18 at 12:30 p.m.

- Sign up at <http://bit.ly/geologytour2015> by Nov. 15
- Tour is limited to 16 people and recommended for ages 16 and up.
- Cost is \$5 per person.

Anticlines, fault lines, geodes, basins, formations, and more... Join us for a 4-hour driving tour that highlights the geology in the Monroe Lake area. You'll discover what these features tell us about our geologic past, how they shaped today's landscape, and their impact on our local economy. Please dress for the weather, as we will be spending time outside the vehicles at each stop. Some walking will be required. *The tour begins at Paynetown SRA (off of State Road 446) and ends at the Harrodsburg exit on State Road 37.*

# Citizen Scientist Training Session: Winter Eagle Watch

Wednesday, November 18 at 6:30 p.m.



Registration **REQUIRED** by **November 15** at <http://bit.ly/eagletraining2015>

**Program Location: Paynetown SRA, Activity Center**

Citizen Scientist volunteers will soon begin their third season of observing Bald and Golden Eagles at Monroe Lake. A multi-year data set is being built to track eagle activity at the lake for resource management purposes, as well as to provide eagle viewing information for interested visitors.

**New volunteers** must attend this 90-minute training session in order to get involved with this winter's eagle watch. The training covers how to identify Bald and Golden Eagles, including the differences between their adult and juvenile forms, as well as a discussion of common behaviors and activities.

Participants in the training session **are expected to volunteer a minimum of 2 hours per month** (on your own schedule) during the research period, which runs from **December 1 through March 31**. Observation points are located at multiple points around the lake, so volunteers can choose spots that are convenient to them.

**What is Citizen Scientist?** Volunteers in the Citizen Science program collect data that helps Monroe Lake track animal populations, monitor habitats, and make resource management decisions. No prior experience is needed; all necessary training is provided. Citizen Scientists can collect data on their own time or participate in scheduled group events.

## Lunch with Nature Series

Join us for our monthly Lunch with Nature Series at Paynetown SRA! Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the main presentation. Afterwards, there is a short walk/hike/activity that highlights the topic. **Each session is limited to 12 people and recommended for adults. 90 minutes**



**Monday, November 30 at 11:00 a.m.** Sign up at <http://bit.ly/lwnnov2015> by Nov. 24

**This month's topic is: Wild Turkey.** We'll examine the natural history of the wild turkey and discuss how it disappeared from Indiana and was later brought back from the brink.



**Monday, December 28 at 11:00 a.m.** Sign up at <http://bit.ly/lwndec2015> by Dec. 22

**This month's topic is: The Sun.** It's the closest star to our planet, but how much do you really know about the Sun? It's the darkest part of the year, so what better time to take a close "look" at our primary source of light (and life!).

## Gray Squirrel Nesting Box Workshop: Thur., December 3 at 6:00 p.m.

- Sign up at <http://bit.ly/squirrelbox2015>
- Registration deadline is Nov. 30
- Cost is \$25 per kit\*; limited to 8 kits.
- Workshop Location: Paynetown SRA

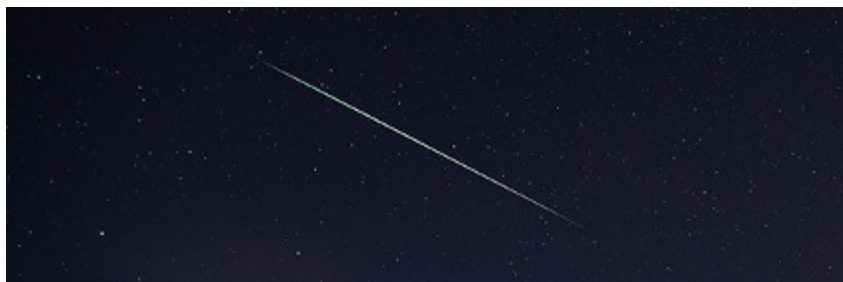
*A hand-assembled and decorated nesting box would make a great holiday gift for a special friend or family member with a backyard!*

It may seem early to think about nesting, but many of our wild animals get started earlier than you might think! Put a nesting box for squirrels up during January or February and it will be ready and waiting for squirrel mating season. Participants will assemble and decorate a wood nesting box for the gray squirrel and learn about this mammal's mating and nesting behavior. *1.5 to 2 hours*

\*When you register for this workshop, you are reserving ONE kit - up to two people *may* work together on the same kit. If you wish to reserve more than one kit (for other people in your group), you must submit a separate registration for each additional kit.



## Geminids Meteor Shower Viewing: Sun., December 13 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Paynetown SRA: Deer Run Shelter



**\*IMPORTANT\*** This program requires clear (or mostly clear) skies and will be cancelled if there is too much cloud cover. If sky conditions look iffy, you can check the program status any time after 4 p.m. by calling the Paynetown Activity Center (812-837-9967) or going to [www.facebook.com/monroelake](http://www.facebook.com/monroelake).

Usually one of the strongest showers each year, the Geminids often produce bright and intensely colored meteors. Join us as we watch for these “shooting stars” to streak across the night sky! Our naturalist staff will be there to help explain what’s happening, and you can view other objects with a telescope. There will even be a fire and hot chocolate to help you stay warm! Make sure you bundle up in warm layers, and bring a blanket/chairs to recline on for more comfortable viewing.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Yule Log Celebration

- Sunday, December 20 at 1:00 p.m. Sign up at <http://bit.ly/yulelog2015-1> by Dec. 16
- Sunday, December 20 at 3:30 p.m. Sign up at <http://bit.ly/yulelog2015-2> by Dec. 16



Cost is \$5 per person. Each session is limited to 20 people; not recommended for children under 5. This program takes place at Paynetown SRA (meeting location emailed to registered participants).

The Yule log is one of the oldest ways to celebrate the winter solstice and the Christmas season. We'll delve into its traditions as we decorate and burn a Yule log, make Ashen Faggots, light the Yule Candles, and partake of hot cider and Yule Log Cake. Dress for the weather, as the entire program takes place outside! 90 minutes

## 3rd Annual First Day Trail Run and Walk January 1, 2016 Fairfax State Recreation Area



Info and Registration at <http://mag7raceseries.com>